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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 SSM-05 INRE-00 SSO-00 ACDA-10 MCT-01
DHA-02 /097 W
----------025486 131504Z /42
O R 131335Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8281
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO RIYADH
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USIA WASHDC
NSC WHITE HOUSE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI

WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

USIA FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.) EG, IS, XF, US
SUBJECT: AUGUST 13 PRESS HEAVY ON SUBSTANCE

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REF: CAIRO 13452

SUMMARY: PAPERS REPORT US-EGYPTIAN CONTACTS AIM AT CREATING FORMULA
FOR DIRECT US-PLO DIALOGUE BASED ON ACCEPTANCE OF 242 WITH RESERVATIONS

AND THAT PLO INFORMED OF EXTENT OF US COMMITMENT TO ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL

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AND PALESTINIAN QUESTION. QADDUMI SAYS PLO READY FOR DIALOGUE
WITH US BUT WANTS NEW SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION TO REPLACE 242
BECAUSE PNC RESOLUTION (1974) DOES NOT ALLOW PALESTINIANS TO
DEAL WITH 242. SIGNED EDITORIALS DEFEND VANCE MISSION AND US
POSITION WHILE NOTING DISPASSIONATELY DIFFERENCE OVER NATURE OF PEACE
.
REMIND ISRAEL THAT "ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL LEGALITY" IS TICKET TO

ADMISSION AS ME NATION. SINAI II EXPIRES NEXT YEAR AND IF ISRAEL
NOT READY FOR PEACE "WE ARE NOT IN A HURRY . . . WE NEGOTIATE
WITH HANDS ON THE TRIGGER." ISRAEL, FAR FROM BEING BASTION AGAINST
SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AREA, WAS CAUSE OF IT AND IF BEGIN NOW CLOSES
DOOR ON PEACE. SOVIET INFLUENCE WILL RETURN. END SUMMARY

1. CAIRO PRESS AUGUST 13 CHOCK FULL OF SUBSTANTIVE REPORTS AND
EDITORIAL COMMENTARY, MUCH OF IT UNMISTAKABLY INSPIRED BY FOREIGN
MINISTRY. US ROLE AND VANCE MISSION FIRMLY DEFENDED. TREATMENT
CONTRASTS STRENUOUS ARAB-PALESTINIAN EFFORTS FOR PEACE WITH
ISRAELI STUBBORNESS. IT ALSO REITERATES SADAT'S REMINDERS THAT
SINAI II EXPIRES OCTOBER 1978 AND THAT "IF ISRAEL DOESN'T WANT
PEACE, EGYPT NOT IN A HURRY."

2. AHRAM FOCUSED ON EGYPTIAN CONTACTS WITH US AND PALESTINIANS. BANNERS

PROCLAIM SADAT DECISION TO FULLY INFORM PLO OF DETAILS OF US
STAND AND EGYPTIAN-US CONTACTS "WHICH AIM AT STARTING DIRECT
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DIALOGUE BETWEEN US AND PLO AND PARTICIPATION OF PLO AT GENEVA
CONFERENCE." AHRAM SAYS EGYPT HAS TOLD PALESTINIANS OF "EXTENT OF
AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND IMPORTANCE OF
PALESTINIAN QUESTION." AHRAM "LEARNED" THTAT STATUS OF PALESTINIAN
ISSUE WILL BE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSIONS OF REGULAR ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN
MINISTERS MEETING IN CAIRO SEPTEMBER 3, AT WHICH TIME DATE WILL BE
FIXED FOR MEETING OF "ARAB WORKING GROUP" WHICH WILL MEET WITH
SECRETARY AT UNGA.

3. AKHBAR AL-YOM "LEARNS FROM RESPONSIBLE SOURCE" THAT ALL
DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS NOW AIM AT DEVISIING "FORMULA BY WHICH US
COMMITS ITSELF TO AFFIRMING GUARANTEES TO PALESTINIANS TO HOME
OR ENTITY WITHOUT AMENDMENT TO RES 242. THIS AIMS AT PREVENTING
ISRAELI MANEUVERS TO CIRCUMVENT RES 242." PAPER ALSO CLAIMS TO HAVE
LEARNED FROM AMERICAN SOURCE WHO ACCOMPANIED SECRETARY VANCE "THAT
U.S. WOULD ACCEPT ANY RESERVATIONS PLO MIGHT ATTACH TO 242 IF
REST OF PROVISIONS OF RESOLUTION, INCLUDING SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF
EACH COUNTRY TO LIVE IN PEACE INSIDE RECOGNIZED BORDERS WERE
RECOGNIZED."

4. PALESTINIAN POSITION. GUMHURIYYA HEADLINES QADDUMI STATEMENT "WE
ARE READY FOR DIALOGUE WITH AMERICA" BUT TEXT MENTIONS COMPLICATING

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QUALIFIER: I.E., "PLO WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN A NEW SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION REPLACING 242 AND PROVIDING FOR RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS INCLUDING RIGHT TO ESTABLISH INDEPENDENT STATE." PLO'S POSITION

IS BOUND BY RESOLUTIONS OF PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL "INCLUDING ONE STIPULATING REFUSAL TO DEAL WITH 242 BECAUSE IT IGNORES PALESTINIAN RIGHTS." ACCORDING QADDUMI, PLO DOES NOT WELCOME AMENDMENT OF 242.

5. QADDUMI SAID EGYPTIAN-PALESTINIAN VIEWS IDENTICAL. ADDED THAT PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL WILL MEET IN DAMASCUS AUGUST 25 FOLLOWING MEETING OF PLO EXCOM IN BEIRUT UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF ARAFAT. (ARAFAT REPORTEDLY ARRIVING IN ALEXANDRIA AUGUST 13 OR 14 FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS.) HIGH LEVEL PALESTINIAN
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DELEGATION ALSO TO VISIT MOSCOW FOR DISCUSSIONS BEFORE BEGINNING OF UNGA SESSION.

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USIA WASHDC
NSC WHITE HOUSE
USMISSION USUN NY

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NSC FOR DR BRZEZINSKI; WHITE HOUSE FOR POWELL; USIA FOR IOP/M;

6. LEBANON. QADDUMI CLAIMS ISRAEL LEADING MIDDLE EAST TO NEW WAR, AS ATTESTED TO BY ISRAELI "AGRESSION" IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. HE WELCOMD SADAT MESSAGES TO ARAB LEADERS DEALING WITH SITUATION IN SOUTH, NOTING SADAT MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE SITUATION DETERIORATING AND REFERRED TO CERTAIN PARTIES (I.E., ISRAELIS AND CHRISTIANS) PLAYING DANGEROUS GAME.

7. COMMENTARY: AKHBAR HAD MAJOR FRONT PAGE PIECE BY MUSA SABRI WHICH MADE FOLLOWING POINTS ON VANCE MISSION: --VANCE
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MISSION DID NOT FAIL BECAUSE IT WAS NOT EXPECTED TO PRODUCE IDENTICAL ARAB AND ISREALI VIEWS. MISSION DESIGNED TO INFORM US FULLY OF FACTS OF SITUATION SO THAT IT COULD DEFINE ITS STAND ON PRINCIPAL OBSTRUCTIONS TO PEACE, "ISRAELI ATTITUDE TO WITHDRAWAL, ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN ENTITY AND ARAB-ISRAELI RELATIONS AFTER END OF STATE OF BELLIGERENCY."

--EGYPT DOES NOT INSIST ON CONVENING GENEVA IN OCT IF IT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PRODUCE SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS.
--AMERICAN CONTENTION IS THAT ISREALI HARD LINE PRODUCT OF FEAR OF FUTURE AND ESIRE FOR SECURITY. CONTACTS IN NEW YORK "WILL CLEARLY DEFINE US ATTITUDE TOWARDS PROBLEM WHICH OBSTRUCTS PEACE"; I.E., SIMPLE ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE.
--US CALL FOR PLO TO ACCEPT 242 IS REJECTED BY ISRAEL CATEGORICALLY BECAUSE IT DOES NOT WANT CONTACT BETWEEN US AND PLO. DIRECT PLO-US DIALOGUE WOULD BE CONSIDERED "GRAVE DEVELOPMENT" AND ISRAEL WOULD MOUNT FEROCIOUS CAMPAIGN INTERNATIONALLY AND INSIDE US. "CARTER WILL BE THE TARGET OF THIS ZIONIST CAMPAIGN".
--US STAND IS ONE OF COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL RESOLUTIONS OPPOSING TERRITORIAL EXPANSION BY ARMED FORCE.
--US ALSO COMMITTED TO ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN "ENTITY" AS ANNOUNCED BY PRES CARTER.
--CLEAR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EGYPT AND US IS OVER QUESTION OF NORMAL RELATIONS BETWEEN ARAB COUNTRIES AND ISRAEL AFTER STATE OF BELLIGERENCY TERMINATED. ARAB COUNTRIES BELIEVE FUTURE OF THESE RELATIONS MUST BE DETERMINED THROUGH TIME; US OPINION IS THAT TIMETABLE MUST BE DEFINED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF NORMAL RELATIONS.

8. AHRAM EDITORIALIZED THAT IF ISREAL WANTS TO BE ACCEPTED

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AS MIDDLE EASTERN NATION IT NEEDS ONLY TO ADHERE TO INTER-
NATIONAL LEGALITY BY APPLYING RES 242 AND "UNGA RESOLUTIONS
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CONCERNING PALESTINIAN ISSUE." PALESTINIAN SIDE HAS DEMON-
STRATED FLEXIBILITY AND DIALOGUE EXPECTED BETWEEN WASHINGTON
AND PLO. ISRAEL, HOWEVER, INSISTS ON PROCRASTINATION AND
MANEUVERING. IT DEMANDS BILATERAL AND DIRECT TALKS WITH ARABS
IN ORDER TO AVOID FACING PALESTINIAN QUESTION, THE CENTRAL
ISSUE. VANCE'S C74 MADE ATTITUDES OF ALL PARTIES COMPLETELY
CLEAR AND SADAT CRYSTALIZED EGYPT'S STAND BY "FIRM DECISION
THAT EGYPT WILL NOT MAKE ANY CONCESSIONS IN VIEW OF ISRAELI
HARD LINE ATTITUDE. IF ISRAEL WANTS PEACE, WE ARE READY
FOR PEACE; IF NOT, WE ARE NIT IN A HURRY...EGYPT RECLASS
SECOND DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WILL EXPIRE IN OCT 78 AND
LEADERS OF ISRAEL SHOULD UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS MEANS."

9. GUMHURIYYA EVOKED ANNIVERSARY OF FALL OF TAL Z'ATAR,
EMOTIONALLY CHARGED ISSUE, TO REMIND ISRAEL THAT NO PEACE
CAN BE REACHED WITHOUT PALESTINIANS AND PLO. ISRAEL DEL-
IBERATELY SOUGHT FAILURE OF VANCE MISSION BY ITS REJECTION OF
PALESTINIAN RIGHTS AND REPRESENTATION OF PLO IN NEGOTIATIONS.

10. AKHABAR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF MUSTAFA AMIN DEVOTED LENGHTY
COLUMN ENTITLTED "WE NEGOTIATE WITH HANDS ON THE TRIGGER,"
TO RIDICULE BEGIN PRETENTIONS TO BE ANOTHER DE GAULLE OR
BEN GURION. FORCEFULLY MADE CASE THAT TIME ON SIDE OF ARABS
WHO GROW IN STRENGTH AND WEALTH DAILY WHILE ISRAEL DAILY
BECOMES POORER AND MORE DIPLOMATICALLY ISOLATED. REJECTED
THEORY THAT ISRAEL A BASTION AGAINST COMMUNISM IN MIDDLE EAST.
ON CONTRARY, ISRAEL RESPONSIBLE FOR SPREAD OF COMMUNISM IN
MIDDLE EAST: EGYPTIAN JEWS FOUNDED FIRST COMMUNIST PARTY IN
EGYPT AND COMMUNISM SPREAD IN MIDDLE EAST AS RESULT OF
WESTERN ARMING OF ISRAEL. ARABS FORCED RESORT TO SOVIET UNION
WITH RESULT COMMUNIST INFLUENCE PENETRATED INTO ARAB STATES,
AFRICA AND THIRD WORLD. SOVIET INFLUENCE BEGAN TO RECEDE
WITH ISRAELI DEFEAT IN OCT WAR. "IF BEGIN NOW INSISTS ON
CLOSING DOORS TO PEACE, HE WILL, IN FACT, BE OPENING THEM TO
RETURN OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE AREA." AMIN SPECULATED THAT
"NEW BEG GURION "MAY BE CONTEMPLATING RESORT TO BLITZ-
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KRIEG TO RESTORE ISRAELI STATURE. "LET US THEREFORE KEEP OUR
FINGERS ON THE TRIGGER, READY TO SHOOT WHILE WE NEGOTIATE
PEACE."
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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Review Transfer Date:
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SAS ID: 1610392
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUGUST 13 PRESS HEAVY ON SUBSTANCE UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: OVIP, EG, IS, XF, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0234f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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